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Letter dated 4 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in response to the confusion caused by the letter dated 3 April 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Security Council (S/2001/320), I have the honour to provide the Council with the following clarifications:

1. The Government of Burundi never announced the withdrawal of any or all of its troops from the towns of Pweto and Kalemie, contrary to what is stated in the letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.

2. The Government of Burundi categorically denies the allegations made in that letter to the effect that Burundi has committed an act of aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

3. Burundi is engaged in a peace process and hopes that its neighbour countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, will also live in peace and cooperate among themselves with a view to achieving stability, reconstruction and development in the Great Lakes subregion.

4. To this end, the Government of Burundi intends to pursue the dialogue it has opened with the authorities in Kinshasa with a view to finding solutions to the problem of security along their common border and to facilitating the implementation of the agreements concluded at Lusaka (for the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Arusha (for Burundi), as well as the relevant Security Council resolutions, for the mutual benefit of our two countries.

5. Instead of taking actions which are as pointless as they are anachronistic, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. should have sought to encourage the pursuit of dialogue between his country and ours. Making such utterly groundless assertions and requesting the Security Council to take up an issue which is now a thing of the past appears to be a diversionary tactic at a time when the Congolese and Burundian authorities on security issues have met in Nairobi twice this year, first on 7 February and then, very recently, from 26 to 28 April 2001. Burundi hopes that these talks will be concluded expeditiously, and intends to take advantage of the Security Council's mission to Central Africa from 17 to 27 May to request the United Nations to make a decisive contribution in that regard.

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6. We regret the misunderstanding which the Congolese diplomat's initiative has caused among the members of the Security Council and among certain personalities, including the distinguished Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations, who, in his statement at the public meeting of the Security Council on 3 May 2001 on the report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, gave the impression that he had been deceived by this unfair outburst on the part of our colleague.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marc **Nteturuye**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative